

Application No. 10/043,552
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IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-40: Cancel

- 1 41. (Currently Amended) A housing apparatus for a portable computing device, the
2 housing apparatus comprising:
- 3 a housing structure configured to encase at least a portion of the computing
4 device, the housing structure being configured to attach to and detach from
5 the portable computing device, and wherein the housing structure includes:
- 6 a front housing segment that at least partially encases the computing
7 device, including at least a portion of a front surface of the
8 computing device;
- 9 a back housing segment that at least partially encases the computing
10 device, including at least a portion of a back surface of the
11 computing device; and
- 12 a joint that connects the front housing segment and the back housing
13 segment to one another and enables the front housing segment
14 to pivot with respect to the back housing segment;—and
- 15 at least one electronic component retained by the housing structure, wherein
16 the at least one electronic component is communicatively coupleable to the
17 computing device.

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1 42. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least
2 one electronic component is configured to communicate with the computing device
3 when the housing structure is operatively attached to the computing device.

1 43. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing
2 structure includes an elongated member that is engageable with an accessory slot of
3 the computing device in order to attach the housing apparatus to the computing
4 device.

1 44. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing
2 structure is configured to overlay a housing of the computing device.

1 45. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least
2 one electronic component is configured to transmit or receive wireless radio-
3 frequency communications.

1 46. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least
2 one electronic component is configured to transmit or receive wireless radio-
3 frequency communications in a Bluetooth medium.

1 47. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, further comprising a
2 communication port that is configured to communicatively couple the at least one
3 electronic component to one or more components of the computing device when the
4 housing structure is attached to the computing device.

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1 48. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the
2 communication port is positioned within the housing structure so as to physically
3 connect to a communication port of the computing device when the housing
4 structure is attached to the computing device.

1 49. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the
2 communication port is capable of communicating wirelessly with one or more
3 components of the computing device.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing
2 structure includes one or more openings for enabling a third device to access a
3 communication port of the computing device.

1 51. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, further comprising an
2 external communication port that can connect to a third device and enable the third
3 device to communicate with the computing device when the housing structure is
4 attached to the computing device.

1 52. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing
2 structure includes a front segment and a back segment that combine to encase a front
3 shell and a back shell of the computing device.

1 53. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein a portion of
2 an exterior surface of the housing structure is deformable.

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1 54. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 44, wherein the housing
2 structure is configured to snugly fit over the computing device.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least
2 electronic component is configured to transmit and receive Global Positioning
3 System signals.

1 56. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the at least
2 one electronic component includes a device selected from a group consisting of a
3 wireless modem, a voice recorder, a digital camera, a keyboard, a mobile phone, a
4 solar cell, a rechargeable battery, Global Positioning System receiver, a recharger,
5 an external memory component, a connector for multi-media cards, memory stick,
6 an accessory cartridge, a compact flash card and a phone card.

1 57. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the
2 communication port of the housing apparatus includes a serial connector.

1 58. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 47, wherein the
2 communication port of the housing apparatus includes a Universal Serial Bus
3 connector.

1 59. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 41, wherein the housing
2 structure is slideably engageable with a housing of the computing device in order to
3 attach the housing structure to the computing device.

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1 61. (Currently Amended) An electronically-enabled housing apparatus for a portable
2 computing device, the housing apparatus comprising:

3 a housing structure configured to encase at least a portion of the computing
4 device, wherein the housing structure is configured to snugly fit over the computing
5 device; and

6 a communication port retained by on the housing structure, wherein the
7 communication port is communicatively coupleable to another device.

1 62. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the
2 communication port on the housing structure is communicatively coupleable to a
3 communication port of the computing device when the housing structure encases the
4 portion of the computing device.

1 63. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the housing
2 structure is configured to attach to the computing device in order to encase at least
3 the portion of the computing device.

1 64. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the housing
2 structure is configured to overlay the computing device in order to encase at least the
3 portion of the computing device.

1 65. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the housing
2 structure is configured to fit over the computing device in order to encase at least the
3 portion of the computing device.

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1 67. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, further comprising a
2 spine, wherein the spine is positioned to insert into a slot on a housing of the
3 computing device in order to detachably attach the housing structure to the
4 computing device.

1 68. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the
2 communication port includes a connector that is capable of mating with another
3 connector of the computing device.

1 69. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, further comprising an
2 embedded connectivity component in the housing structure that connects the
3 communication port of the housing apparatus to one or more other components
4 within the housing structure of the housing apparatus.

1 70. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the
2 computing device includes a housing having a front surface on which a display is
3 provided, and a back surface that opposes the front surface, and wherein the housing
4 structure includes a front segment that extends over the front surface of the
5 computing device, and a back segment that extends over the back surface of the
6 computing device.

1 71. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 70, further comprising a
2 joint to moveably couple the front segment to the back segment.

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1 72. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the
2 communication port is an infrared port.

1 73. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the
2 communication port is a radio-frequency port.

1 74. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, further comprising
2 one or more electronic components housed within the housing structure.

1 75. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or
2 more electronic components include a device selected from the group consisting of a
3 wireless modem, a voice recorder, a digital camera, a keyboard, a mobile phone, a
4 solar cell, a rechargeable battery, a battery recharger, a memory, a connector for
5 multi-media cards, a memory stick, an accessory cartridge, a compact flash card and
6 a phone card.

1 76. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or
2 more electronic components enable the housing apparatus to perform as a Global
3 Positioning System apparatus.

1 77. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or
2 more electronic components enable the housing apparatus to perform as a radio-
3 frequency communication device.

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- 1 78. (Previously Presented) The housing apparatus of claim 61, wherein the one or
- 2 more electronic components enable the housing apparatus to perform as a Bluetooth
- 3 enabled communication device.
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